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Message Text

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44
ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-06 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

EA-06 EUR-12 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NASA-01

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-03 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NRC-05 /123 R

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ACDA/IR:TDAVIES
PM/NPO:GLINGER
NSC:JMARCUM
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OES:DJENKINS
IO:LCAVANAUGH
OSD:JLANDAUER
JCSC:ESERIO
EA/IMS:JMDION
EA/ROC:BLEVIN
NEA/ARN:MMAUGHAN
NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE
NEA/INS:BBROWN
EUR/SE:RCARROL
CIA:PBEGLEY
ERDA:IWILLIAMS
EA/PHL:EHULER
SS:MR BORG
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R 302016Z JUN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
IAEA VIENNA 4918/4919
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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TOKYO PASS ERDA REP - KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. .11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: MULTINATIONAL NUCLEAR CENTERS: ASSESSMENT OF KEY ASIAN COUNTRIES' ATTIUDES TOWARD PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING

1. SUMMARY: THE USG IS CONDUCTING A STUDY TO EVALUATE THE CONTRIBUTION TO NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES WHICH MIGHT BE MADE BY THE ESTABLISHMENT IN ASIA OF ONE OR MORE MULTI-NATIONAL NUCLEAR CENTERS, INCLUDING FACILITIES FOR REPROCESS-ING PLUTONIUM FROM SPENT FUEL RODS. POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND EVALUATIONS WHICH WILL HELP DETER-MINE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH CENTERS AND OPTIMUM OCATIONS. RE-PLIES ARE REQUESTED BY JULY 15. END SUMMARY.

2. THE U.S. IS SEEKING TO MINIMIZE THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES OBTAINING ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY FROM
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WHICH WEAPONS-USABLE PLUTONIUM AND URANIUM MIGHT BE READILY OBTAINED. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS U.S. POLICY TO ENCOURAGE ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTINATIONAL FACILITIES FOR URANIUM EN-RICHMENT AND PLUTONIUM REPROCESSIG IN AREAS WHERE THIS WOULD DISCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONALLY OWNED AND OPERATED FACILITIES.

3. A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SEVERAL IN ASIA, HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OBTAINING PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING PLANTS CITING REQUIREMENTS ARISING IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS FROM EX-ISTING OR PLANNED CIVILIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMS. OUR OWN STUDIES OF THE PROBLEM INDICATE THAT:(A) NONE OF THESE COUNTRIES HAVE A NEED FOR REPROCESSING IN THIS TIME FRAME,

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(B) CONSTRUCTION OF REPROCESSING PLANTS, EVEN BY HIGHLY EX-
PERIENCED ORGANIZATIONS, IS VERY EXPENSIVE AND RISKY, (C)
VERY FEW COUNTRIES HAVE ENGAGED IN REPROCESSING IN THE PAST
AND THOSE FEW HAVE EXPERIENCED CNSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY, AND
(D) THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES WITHVERY LARGE NUCLEAR
POWER PROGRAMS HAVE OPERATED THESE PROGRAMS WITHOUT REPRO-
CESSING FOR SOME TIME. IN KEEPING WITH THIS VIEW, THE USG
ENCOURAGED THE IAEA TO BEGIN AN EXAMINATION OF THE ECONOMIC
AND TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF MULTINATIONAL, AS OPPOSED TO
SMALLER, NATIONAL, FACILITIES. THE RECENT NPT REVIEW CON-
FERENCE ENDBRSED THE IAEA'S EFFORTS TO WHICH THE U.S. HOPES
TO MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION.

4. MEANWHILE, THE U.S. IS UNDERTAKING ITS OWN DETAILED
STUDY OF MULTINATIONAL NUCLEAR CENTERS AND IN THIS CONNEC-
TION IS CONSIDERING WHETHER TO ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF ONE OR MORE SUCH CENTERS IN LESS SENSITIVE AREAS IN ASIA.
THE MULTINATIONAL NUCLEAR CENTERS COULD INVOLVE PARTICIPA-
TION IN OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT OR OPERATION, OR ALL THREE
BY TWO OR MORE COUNTRIES, PREFERABLY INCLUDING SUPPLIER
NATIONS, AND/OR AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, SUCH AS IAEA,
WHICH MIGHT PLAY A ROLE IN OPERATING OR POLICY DIRECTION AS
WELL AS SAFEGUARDING SUCH A FACILITY. THE CENTERS COULD
BRING TOGETHER SUCH ELEMENTS OF THE FUEL CYCLE AS FABRICA-
TION AND REPROCESSING, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND STORAGE OF SPENT
FUEL AS WELL AS EXTRACTED PLUTONIUM . SUCH CENERS WOULD
APPEAR TO HAVE A NUMBER OF ADVANTAGES. FOR EXAMPLE, PRE-
LIMINARY STUDIES SUGGEST THAT MULTINATIONAL FACILITIES SERV-
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ING THE REACTORS OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES COULD PRODUCE
IMPORTANT ECONOMIES OF SCALE. JOINT OPERATION COULD MINI-
MIZE THE RISK OF DIVERSION OF MATERIAL IN VIOLATION OF SAFE-
GUARDS ARRANGEMENTS. ALSO THE PHYSICAL SECURITY OF THE
MATERIALS MAY BE EASIER TO MAINTAIN IN A FEW LARGE CENTERS
UNDER MULTINATIONAL CONTROL THAN A LARGER NUMBER OF NATIONAL
ONES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS DESCRIBE
FACTORS LIKELY TO BE IMPRTAN IN AN EVALUATION OF THE HOST
COUNTRY'S POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION IN A NUCLEAR CENTER. ALL
QUESTIONS ARE NOT NECESSARILY APPLICABLETO ALL POSTS AND
THOSE WHICH HAVE ALREADY REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON SOME OF
THESE QUESTIONS, SUCH AS TEHRAN AND SEOUL, NEED ONLY UPDATE
EARLIER REPORTING WHERE REQUIRED OR NOTE ANY CONSIDERATIONS
TO WHICH THEY BELIEVE PARTICULAR WEIGHT SHOULDBE GIVEN.
THE EXISTENCE OF THIS STUDY SHOULD NOT BE REVEALED TO HOST
GOVERNMENTS OR INDUSTRY REPS, AND POSTS SHOULD NOT REPEAT
NOT APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS SINCE WE WISH TO AVOID GIVING
THE IMPRESSION THAT USG IS PLANNING INITIATIVES IN THIS
AREA.

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6. POSTS SHOULD PROVIDE AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED DESIRE OF HOST GOVERNMENTS TO OWN OR HAVE ACCESS TO REPROCESSING FACILITIES, ON PILOT AS WEL AS COMMERCIAL SCALE. BOTH THE LEVEL OF THE HOST COUNTRY'S INEREST AND THE NATURE OF ITS MOTIVATION WOULD BE HELPFUL IN REACHING A JUDGMENT ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH MULTINATIONAL FACILITIES LOCATED OUTSIDE THE HOST COUNTRY COULD SATISFY PERCEIVED REQUIREMENTS. IN ADDITION TO ANY EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN SUCH FACILITIES BY HOSTCOUNTRY OFFICIALS, POSTS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PLANS FOR NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMS AND ALSO ANY EVIDENCE OF INTEREST IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR OTHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES, OR AN INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE.

7. FOR MANILA, CANBERRA, TEHRAN, SEOUL AND TOKYO:FOR VARIETY OF REASONS DEPARTMENT WISHES TO EVALUATE ABSOLUTE AND RELATIVE SUITABILITY OF HOST COUNTRIES (MAINLAND OR ISLANDS) AS SITES FOR A MULTINATIONAL FACILITY INVOLVING PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING. FACTORS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT
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INCLUDE EXISTENCE OF ADEQUATE INDUSTRIAL BASE TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF SUCH A FACILITY, AVAILABILITY OF REMOTE AREAS FOR LONG-TERM STORAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE, POLIICAL ACCEPTABILITY IN TERMS OF LIKELY DOMESIC REACTION TO THE LOCATION OF SUCH A FACILITY IN THAT COUNTRY, INTERNAL STABILITY, ABILITY TO PROVIDE A SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR SUCH CENTER, DEGREE OF COMMITMENT TO NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES, AND POLITICAL FACTORS WHICH MIGHT AFFECT PARTICIPATION OF OTHERS IN A PROJECT SITUATED IN THAT COUNTRY.
AS AN AID TO THE CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE STRUCTURES OF OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL WHICH MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE XOR SUCH FACILITIES,EDDRESSEES SHOULD DESCRIBE THE ROLES AND I TERES OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES IN THE HOST COUNTRY'S PRESENT AND EUTURE NUCLEAR PROGRAMSAM

8. FOR ERDA REP TOKYO:ERDA REQUESTS YOUR COMMENTS ON ABOVE IN CONNECTION WITH KOREA AND PHILIPPINES.

9. FOR EMBASSY TOKYO:DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE MULTINATIONAL PLANT ISSUE. SEPTEL WHICH INCLUDES QUESTIONS RELATED TO THIS SPECIFIC ISSUE IS IN PREPARATION AND POST MAY WISH TO INCORPORATE ANSWER TO THESE IN OVERALL RESPONSE TO HE PRESENT MESSAGE. INGEOLL

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MANILA
CANBERRA
TEHRAN
JAKARTA
ISLAMABAD

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CAIRO
ANKARA
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KUALA LUMPUR INFO MOSCOW
LONDON
PARIS
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NEW DELHI
NATO BRUSSELS
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